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Columbian dies in 20-vehicle bridge pileup

By B.J. Martin and Gerald Laws
Missourian staff writers

"It was just like Vietnam again."
That was the recollection of Paul Tucker of Phoenix, Ariz., as he sat shuddering and wide-eyed in the front seat of a Boone County Hospital ambulance. An hour and a half earlier, he had been jolted awake in the passenger seat of a Navajo tractor-trailer rig when it slammed into a pickup truck about 25 yards (22.5 meters) behind an accident that killed Columbian Boone Shaw.

Shaw, of 900 West Blvd. S., owned Shaw Music Co., a musical instrument shop at 17 N. Tenth St.

"My partner went into shock," said Tucker. "I had to shut down the controls. All these girders whipped by my head."

The girders were part of the Missouri River bridge on Interstate 70 near Rocheport, 9 miles (14.5 kilometers) west of Columbia and scene of the Thursday morning accident involving at least 20 vehicles in both the eastbound and westbound lanes.

Nine other persons were injured in a series of collisions on the icy bridge. One patrolman said he was amazed more weren't hurt or killed.

Details of the accident were still being verified by the Missouri State Highway Patrol late Thursday night and as of that time the patrol had not completed a report of the collisions.

Boone County Sheriff Charlie Foster, however, said he has a rough idea of what happened. Based on Foster's observations and those of others, here is a reconstruction of the incident:

Fog had reduced visibility on the

bridge to less than 30 feet (9 meters), causing dangerous driving conditions. I.A. Dan Danley of the Columbia Fire Department said that was the cause of the accident. "It was the fog more than anything else," he said. "It's happened before. It's just the bridge. The highway was clear before the bridge."

Foster said he thought a car driven by Sandra Miller, who was accompanied by her infant son Billy, stalled in an eastbound lane near the east end of the bridge. A Freuhauf tractor-trailer rig crushed the red Gremlin from behind, pinning its roof almost to the road. Ms. Miller was in critical condition at Boone County Hospital Thursday night. Billy Miller was treated there and released.

Foster said the driver of the rig heard about the stalled car on his CB radio only moments before the crash.

The driver told Foster he tried too late to swerve to avoid the car. His rig, in grinding to a stop, pinned a station wagon against the girders on the bridge's south side. Another tractor-trailer rig following the Freuhauf rig swerved too late to avoid hitting it, and wedged between it and the median.

Two or three other eastbound cars were heavily damaged by the chain reaction. The back ends of two were crushed.

The collisions in the eastbound lanes may have led to the accidents in the westbound lanes. "Now this is pure speculation," said Foster, "but I think westbound traffic watched the event and slowed down."

"Then a flatbed trailer hit the white Ford van driven by Shaw. A pickup

(See 20 VEHICLES, Page 10A)



A.J. Sundstrom

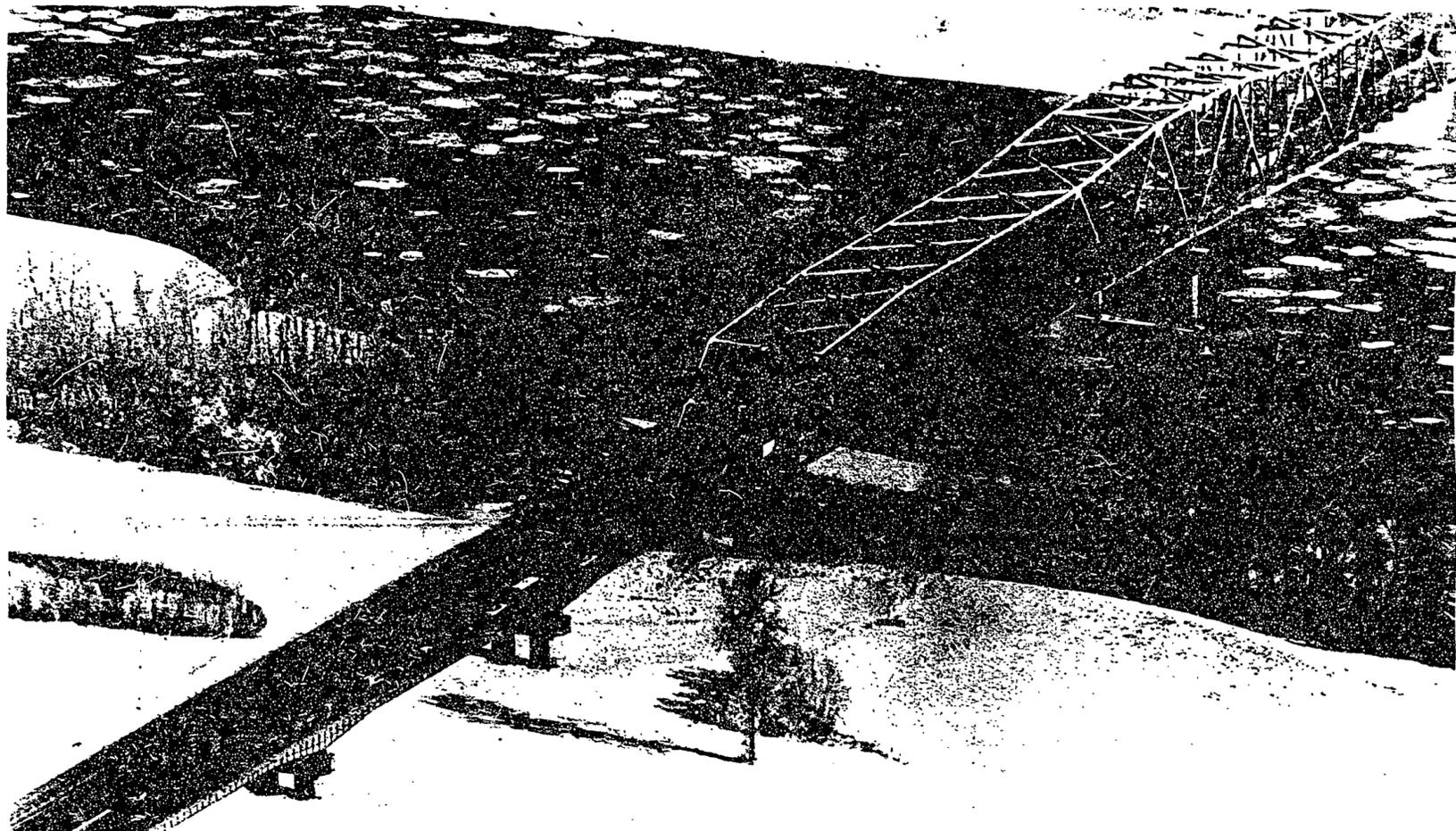
The driver of this pickup truck, above, managed to survive Thursday morning's wreck on the Interstate 70 bridge over the Missouri River, while eastbound traffic, left, was backed up.

Crash victims are identified

Here are the names, ages, addresses and conditions of the victims of Thursday morning's 20-vehicle wreck on the Interstate 70 bridge near Rocheport:

- Boone F. Shaw, 58, of 900 West Blvd. S., dead at the scene.
- Sandra Miller, 29, Bunceton, Mo., critical, at Boone County Hospital.
- James Jackson, 32, Phoenix, Ariz., fair, at Boone County Hospital.
- Michael A. Dilse, 22, of 904 E. Spring St., Boonville, good, at the University Medical Center.
- Sherrill Cox, 19, of 506 Maple Blvd., Kansas City, good, at the University Medical Center.
- Edward Lavery, 44, Route 1, Syracuse, Mo., undetermined, Still Hospital, Jefferson City.
- Edward Tanner, 35, 4163 Elizabeth Drive, House Springs, Mo., treated at University Medical Center and released.
- Billy Miller, 18 months, Bunceton, Mo., treated at Boone County Hospital and released.
- Paul Tucker, 27, Phoenix, Ariz., treated at Boone County Hospital.
- William Trelec, Boonville, undetermined, Cooper County Hospital.
- Darrell Buckler, 32, (Columbia fireman responding to the accident), treated at Boone County Hospital.

Steve Buhman



Soviet Union begins cruise missile tests with Backfire plane

By Richard Burt
New York Times

Insight

WASHINGTON — The Soviet Union has begun to test its own version of the long-range cruise missile, a step that could have an impact on the Senate's view of the projected Soviet-American treaty limiting strategic arms.

Carter administration officials reported that in recent months the Soviet Union had conducted at least eight test firings of the missile at ranges of about 750 miles (1,200 kilometers). This is the first time Moscow has tested long-range cruise missiles from bombers, but the tests have attracted additional attention in defense circles here because the weapons reportedly were launched from the controversial Soviet bomber known as the Backfire.

Officials are uncertain about what the development means for the administration's chances of achieving Senate approval for an arms treaty with Moscow. On the one hand, the new cruise missile could increase Senate concern over the momentum of Soviet arms modernization. On the other hand Soviet deployment of the new missile aboard the Backfire could have the effect of forcing Moscow to include the bomber under the ceilings on strategic arms laid out in the agreement.

Unlike ballistic rockets, cruise missiles are unmanned drone aircraft that travel toward their targets at relatively low speed. Moscow has deployed short-range cruise missiles aboard aircraft since the mid-1960s, but, until recently, it had never

tested a system with comparable range to those now being developed for American bombers.

At the same time, while officials said intelligence data on the new Soviet missile was scanty, the weapon does not appear to possess the extremely high accuracy of the American designs nor their ability to approach targets at tree-top altitudes.

Officials said the first disclosure of the new missile came earlier this week when Secretary of Defense Harold R. Brown appeared before the House Armed Services Committee to discuss the Pentagon's budget request for 1980 fiscal year. In response to a question by Rep. Robin L. Beard, R-Tenn., about new Soviet cruise missiles, Brown said: "They do have some new ones under development."

Officials later reported that the missiles had been launched from the Backfire and that their maximum range could be as much as 1,500 miles (2,400 kilometers), twice the distance yielded during the recent tests.

Moscow's development of long-range cruise missiles has stirred some concern within the Pentagon, but several officials said that given American interest in the new weapons, it was predictable that the Soviet Union would move ahead with a test program of its own.

Khomeini returns with warning

New York Times

TEHRAN, Iran — On his first day back in his native land in almost 15 years, a day of indescribable emotion and turbulence, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini warned Thursday that his Moslem Nationalist Movement would "arrest" Prime Minister Shapour Bakhtiar if he refused to resign.

Speaking at the bleak Behesht Zahra Cemetery in south Tehran, the intractable Shiite Divine ignored the pleas of many of his local associates to avoid an immediate challenge to Bakhtiar.

He did not go so far as to name a provisional government or even an Islamic revolutionary council, and he uttered some conciliatory words about the nation's restive armed forces, but he was unyielding in his hostility to the prime minister, to the absent shah, Mohammed Reza Pahlavi, and to the United States.

"The Parliament and the government are illegal," the ayatollah said. "I will shut their mouths, and I will appoint a government with the support of the Iranian people."

Earlier, at Mehrabad Airport, Iran's revolutionary hero said, "Final victory will come when all foreigners are out of the country."

No government representative came to the airport.

Between the airport and the cemetery at least three million people lined the streets to roar out a passionate, deafening greeting. For this one day, whatever the weeks ahead may bring, the nation went mad with joy.

It was a welcome to rival those that New York gave Lindbergh, that Paris gave De Gaulle, that Rome gave its Caesars.

How far and how fast the ayatollah intends to press his crusade for an Islamic Republic will not be known for

a day or two. But the militancy of his speech at the cemetery, diplomatic analysts believe, suggests that he may be preparing for another season of strife if it is needed to bring the government and the armed forces under his control.

He manifested no interest whatsoever in compromise.

Speaking with a reporter by telephone Thursday, Bakhtiar was conciliatory. With his capital in the first transport of rapture, the prime minister said calmly he would "do my best to begin contact (with Khomeini) again" today or the next day. He would attempt to establish cordial relations, he said, but "only on certain conditions that I have already outlined."

Bakhtiar and the army is believed to have decided more than a week ago to arrest anyone named to a provisional government — an act that would almost certainly lead to pitched battles in the

streets and perhaps to civil war.

At the cemetery, Khomeini paused for a time to regain his strength. After a good deal of shouting and shoving, strong men hoisted the ayatollah to a dais.

Time and again in his speech, the venerable revolutionary turned to the United States. The shah, he said, had destroyed Iranian agriculture to create markets for America. He had sold oil to the United States and bought useless weapons from Washington with the proceeds. And now the United States was plotting to bring the shah back.

Appealing to the armed forces, the ayatollah added:

"We want you to be independent. . . . I advise you to come and be with the people and say the same things as the people. They say our army should not be under the orders of foreign advisors."

Vice Premier Teng insists China will not align with Russia again

ATLANTA (UPI) — Visiting Chinese Vice Premier Teng Hsiao-ping charged Thursday that the Soviet Union was trying to bring China under its own influence and pledged his nation would never again align itself with Russia.

With the official Washington phase of his visit behind him, the 74-year-old Teng set out on what he has termed the second part of his tour.

His first stop was in Atlanta, where he appeared before a group of editors to declare China would never abandon its new-found friendship with the United States to join forces with the Soviet Union.

Reporters were permitted to sit in on the question-and-answer session with the editors with the understanding that they would paraphrase Teng rather than quote him directly.

Teng told the group that under the radical influence of the "Gang of Four," China lost considerable time in trying to modernize itself. He said the radical leaders had considered people who did not study or work as heroes, but he told the editors that Chinese children now are studying very conscientiously.

Teng's busy day in Atlanta also included a visit to the grave of assassinated civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., a talk with a Ford Motor Co. assembly line worker, and dinner at the governor's mansion Thursday night with Georgia Gov. George Busbee and the governors of 17 other states of the region.

In spite of the bitterly cold weather, Teng made a 15-minute visit to King's grave, during which time he placed a wreath of daisies and chrysanthemums

at the site and bowed three times in succession before stepping away to talk with the King family.

Then Teng was whisked to the Ford assembly plant in suburban Hapeville, Ga., to see an assembly line in action. At the plant, while riding in an electric golf cart with Henry Ford II, Teng stopped to talk with Walter Hood, 28, who was bolting the body of a Ford LTD onto a chassis. Teng and Hood discussed the number of hours and workdays that American laborers put in.

The workers did not follow the urgings of a group of ministers who picketed outside the plant that Teng be ignored.

When Teng's plane landed at Dobbins (See TENG, Page 12A)

Inside today

Art lovers

The Missourian brings art lovers a new weekly art page beginning today. See it in Weekend on Page 5B.

Hegemony

President Carter and Vice Premier Teng Hsiao-ping issued a joint communique condemning "hegemony," the Chinese code word for Soviet aggression. Details are on Page 12A.

In town today

6 p.m. High school basketball, Rock Bridge vs. Kirksville, Rock Bridge gym.

Movie listings on Page 2B